

OLL 85-1798  
17 June 1985

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing for Minority Members and Staff of the  
House Appropriations Committee on Soviet Chemical  
Warfare Doctrine and Stockpiles

1. On 17 June 1985, the following Minority Members and staff of the House Appropriations Committee were briefed on Soviet chemical warfare doctrine and stockpiles at the request of Rep. John Porter (R., IL) who had received a similar briefing on 13 June (see my MFR dated 13 June 1985):

Rep. Larry Combest (R., TX)	Ron Bosto, Staff
Rep. John Miller (R., WA)	Sam Gibbons, Staff
Rep. Clarence Miller (R., OH)	Carol Hall, Staff
	Ibo Spaltin, Staff
	Bonnie Reiss, Staff
	Mack Thornberry, Staff

The briefers were [REDACTED]  
Directorate of Intelligence, Office of Soviet Analysis.

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2. The session began with the briefers providing answers to a variety of questions on Soviet chemical warfare stockpiles, production, personnel, doctrine, and some allegations made by David Sullivan in his new book (see attachment). The briefers answered each question thoroughly and, per my instructions, clearly delineated where the Agency differed with DIA and Army and why. The briefers were careful to present differences objectively because the members in the room had already had individual briefings on the subject by Army spokesmen. (The members clearly were not aware that there was an Intelligence Community viewpoint.) I did not sense any hostility toward what the briefers had to say and two members stopped to thank them personally before leaving - a rare occurrence in my experience.

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4. Some controversy over what was briefed apparently arose later on the House floor. Representative Herbert Bateman (R., VA) claimed that Representative Porter told him the CIA had briefed him (Porter) on U.S. chemical warfare doctrine and programs with the clear implication that the U.S. should not waste its money on binary weapons. Bateman told me he suspected Porter was misquoting the Agency, but wanted us to give him the same briefing just to clarify the record. I promptly agreed and we arranged for a briefing the following morning. Nevertheless, the Army rumor mill apparently had already notified the White House and NSC that the Agency was briefing Soviet chemical warfare on the Hill and was belittling U.S. Army programs. The result was a series of frantic telephone calls to set the record straight and the addition of D/SOVA to the Bateman briefing team. When all was said and done, however, Bateman was completely satisfied that he knew the Intelligence Community's position on Soviet chemical warfare. Incidentally, the Army's request for binary munitions also passed the House.

5. I do not believe we changed anyone's mind on Soviet chemical warfare, but we did make them aware of how difficult the problem is from an intelligence standpoint. Because the House debate on chemical weapons is finished, I do not anticipate any further questions or requests on this subject.

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Liaison Division  
Office of Legislative Liaison

Attachment:  
As stated

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Chief, Liaison Division, OLL

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